



The City Source

Newsletter Publication for Lynchburg Citizens

Dec. 2007

Congratulations Class of 2007!



Lynchburg Citizens Academy
November 27, 2007

On November 27, twenty-nine citizens graduated from Lynchburg's 5th Annual Citizens Academy. The participants attended 11 weekly sessions on topics ranging from the City Budget to Utilities. The Academy participants were honored during the City Council meeting and received praises from Vice Mayor Bert Dodson, Jr. and other City officials for their interest in city government.

Left to Right: Lloyd Tannenbaum, Nancy Mach, Thomas Strayhorn, Becky Hall, Carla Oster, Judy Hall, Thomas Oster, Katherine Cyphert, Lucille Deane, Robert Gillette, Bob Mach, Marsha Gillette, Melany Pearl, Susan Brumfield, Linda Kolodny, Kathy Ellis, Curtis Brumfield, Paul Kolodny, Doug Leavitt, Nick Malamas, Teresa Brennan, Patricia Malamas, Kappa Meadows, Chase McMaster, Jacqueline Robinson, Hope Townes, Betsy Grzybowski, and Melinda Younger. Amos Peverill (not pictured).

WINTER

Preparedness - Power Outages

Are you prepared for winter? This year's winter season could produce storms that cause power outages. Should this happen, many Virginians will have to turn to a generator or some type of non-electric alternative heat source like a fireplace, wood stove or a kerosene or propane heater in order to stay warm indoors. However, people should be aware of the potential hazards in using these alternative heat sources.



"Injuries or deaths can occur when people do not take the proper safety precautions with their alternative heat sources," said Michael Cline, state coordinator for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. "Not only should everyone have some form of alternative heat source, but they should also know how to safely use it." As with any fuel-burning device, follow the manufacturer's instructions, ventilate properly and guard against fire.

Additionally, in the event of a power outage, anyone who plans to use a generator or alternative heat source should follow these recommendations:

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves

- Fireplace and wood stove chimneys should be inspected annually and cleaned if necessary. They often build up creosote, the residue left behind by burning wood. Creosote is flammable and needs to be professionally removed periodically.

Kerosene and Propane Heaters

- Keep heaters at least three feet away from furniture, blankets, and other flammable objects. Never set the heater on a chair or table. It should sit only on an uncarpeted floor.
- Never substitute one type of fuel for another.
- Keep an eye on your heater at all times while it is running. Shut it off before you go to bed or when you leave the house. Never run a portable heater longer than the manufacturer recommends.
- Wait for the heater to cool before refueling it. Kerosene has a low flash point and might cause a fire if it comes into contact with a hot surface.

Generators

- Generators should always be operated outdoors. They produce carbon monoxide, an odorless, colorless gas that is toxic and causes poisoning or death.
- Do not operate generators in any space that is enclosed or partially enclosed like a garage, crawl space or basement. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not provide enough ventilation to prevent the build-up of carbon monoxide gas.
- Portable generators should have a canopy-like cover to keep them dry and away from rain or snow.
- Use only outdoor-rated extension cords that are properly rated for the specific generator. Extension cords should be plugged directly into the generator.
- Never try to power the home by plugging a portable generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "backfeeding." This is extremely dangerous and may cause an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer.

10th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST

January 21, 2007

(8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.)

Virginia University of Lynchburg - Humbles Hall, Garfield Avenue

Ticket Price: \$10.00

Tickets on sale at Lynchburg Public Library, Main Branch in the Plaza, and Branch Library in City Hall

MANY VOICES - ONE COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON RACE & RACISM

The Community Dialogue on Race and Racism has celebrated an important milestone by registering over 350 participants for the community-wide dialogue scheduled to begin in February 2008.

"We're very excited that so many people have already signed up to participate in the Dialogue," remarked Community Dialogue Coordinator Margaret Schmitt. "We are getting more participants from across the City every day."

ACTION FORUM

On Thursday, December 6, individuals who participated in the pilot *Study Circles*, along with members of the Sponsoring Coalition, the Working Group, City Council, and others will participate in an Action Forum at Lynchburg College. The Action Forum is the next step in the *Study Circle* process that moves dialogue to action. A group process will be used to focus on the best action ideas created by the pilot *Study Circle* participants and identify individuals and/or groups who are willing to develop action plans and follow-through on the ideas.

COMMUNITY-WIDE KICK-OFF

On January 17, 2008, the community-wide program will kick-off with an event open to the public at E.C. Glass Auditorium. Attendees will hear from two noted speakers, Lynchburg native and Professor of Political Science at Yale University, Dr. Khalilah Brown-Dean and Dr. Steve Robbins, a highly acclaimed, sought-after speaker on issues of diversity, inclusion, and cultural competence. The evening will also include performances by the Dance Theater of Lynchburg. Individuals will have the opportunity to register for the community-wide *Study Circles*, as well. The kick-off event begins at 6:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

To learn more about the Community Dialogue on Race and Racism go to www.ManyVoicesOneCommunity.com or call 455-4208 or 455-4212.

Lynchburg Receives Digital Cities Award

The City of Lynchburg has received the "2007 Digital Cities Award" for cities with populations of 30,000 to 74,999.

The awards are given annually by *The Center for Digital Government* and Lynchburg has been placed on the list of top ten for the past several years.

The purpose of the award is to recognize cities that use technology to create a seamless environment between local government and their constituents. The survey is open to all U.S. cities with a population of 30,000 or more and respondent cities are classified into four size-based categories.

"We are really proud to receive this award," said Information Technology Director Mike Goetz. "This recognition goes to the many city departments and employees who have worked hard to utilize technology to better serve the citizens of Lynchburg."

"This year's winners have really raised the bar for cities," said Cathilea Robinett, executive director for the Center for Digital Government. "Digital technology connects citizens with their government on a level never before achieved."

Winners were honored at a special awards ceremony in New Orleans on November 15.

**Municipal
Offices
will be
CLOSED**

December 24 - 25

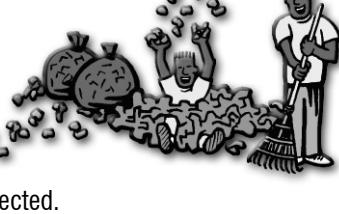
& January 1

**in observance of the
Christmas and New Year's
Holidays**

NOTE: The Landfill will be closed December 25 and January 1. There will be no trash collection on December 25 and January 1. **Trash collection for those days will occur on Wednesdays, December 26 and January 2.**

LEAF COLLECTION UPDATE

Due to the late drop of leaves, all leaf collection services are extended until all leaves are collected.



Christmas Tree Disposal

Pick-up Schedule:

- Monday and Tuesday trash collection will be **Wednesday, January 9**
- Thursday and Friday trash collection will be **Wednesday, January 16**



Drop-off sites are as follows:

- Riverside Park (*parking lot next to tennis courts*)
- Miller Park (*parking lot to left of the main entrance*)
- Recycling site at Fort Hill Shopping Center
- Peaks View Park (*parking lot next to upper tennis courts and restrooms*)

Personal Property Tax Second Installment Due: December 5

Lynchburg residents are reminded that the second personal property tax installment is due by **Wednesday, December 5**.

A 10% penalty will be assessed if the payment for the personal property tax is not received by December 5. Also, a 10% per annum interest will begin to accrue on January 1, 2008, based on the amount of the unpaid installment.

Please direct questions regarding payments to Billings & Collections at 455-3850.

For questions concerning assessment, call the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office at 455-3870.

Real Estate Tax Second Installment Due: January 15, 2008

Real Estate property owners are reminded that the second installment for real estate property taxes is due by **Tuesday, January 15**. A 10% penalty will be assessed if the January 15 due date is not met.

If you have any questions concerning your bill, please contact the Billings and Collections Division at 455-3850.

Any questions concerning real estate assessments should be directed to the Assessor's Office at 455-3830.

For more information about Lynchburg City services, visit our web site at www.lynchburgva.gov